

Message Text

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USNMR SHAPE BE
USCINCEUR VAIHINGEN GER

C O N F I D E N T I A L USNATO 03188

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: MPOL, NATO
SUBJECT: NATO DEFENSE INITIATIVES: POST-EWG VIEWS OF
FRG DEFENSE ADVISOR

1. ON 28 MARCH MISSION DEFAD (LEGERE) CALLED ON FRG DEFAD
(BG VON SANDRART) TO DISCUSS THE OUTCOME OF LAST WEEK'S
REINFORCED EWG MEETING ON THE LONG TERM DEFENSE PROGRAM
(LTDP). VON SANDRART IS WELL PLUGGED INTO MOD BONN AND
IS PERSONALLY CLOSE TO MG ALTENBURG, THE REPRESENTATIVE
FROM MOD BONN AT LAST WEEK'S MEETING

2. VON SANDRART FIRST CONCEDED THAT MOD BONN CHARACTERIS-
TICALLY TENDS TOWARD A CONSERVATIVE APPROACH TO NEW PRO-
POSALS OF ALL KINDS, AND NEVER MORE SO THAN WHEN AGREED
NATIONAL PROGRAMS OF MAJOR EQUIPMENT MAY BE AFFECTED BY
SUCH PROPOSALS. HE ALSO GRANTED THAT THE NEWNESS OF MOD
APEL TO HIS JOB MIGHT HELP ACCOUNT FOR EXTRA CAUTIOUSNESS
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WHEN FACING UP TO PROPOSALS FOR SUBSTANTIAL CHANGE.

3. VON SANDRART THEN DELIVERED HIMSELF OF HIS MAIN MES-
SAGE, WHICH WAS THAT THE US SHOULD NOT PRESS NATIONS,
INCLUDING THE FRG, TOO HARD DURING THE WEEKS AHEAD LEST
THAT PRESSURE PROVOKE COUNTERPRODUCTIVELY NEGATIVE REAC-
TIONS. IF PUSHED TO A STARK YES OR NO ON COMPLEX AND

EXPENSIVE PROPOSALS, THEY MIGHT WELL ANSWER NO, VON SANDRART SAID.

4. WHEN ASKED TO ELABORATE, VON SANDRART MENTIONED SPECIFICALLY THE FRG'S BELIEF THAT THE US EXPECTED THAT, BY THE TIME OF THE SUMMIT, NATIONS (INCLUDING THE FRG) WOULD HAVE BEEN ABLE TO MODIFY MAJOR AGREED NATIONAL PROGRAMS TO ACCOMMODATE THE LTDP. DEFAD REPLIED THAT ANY SUCH FRG UNDERSTANDING WAS INACCURATE. OBVIOUSLY NATIONS COULD NOT BE EXPECTED TO HAVE DEFINITELY MODIFIED AGREED MAJOR NATIONAL PROGRAMS BY SUMMIT TIME. HOWEVER, DEFAD SAID, WHAT WAS POSSIBLE AND DESIRABLE, IN CASES WHERE MAJOR LTDP PROGRAMS APPEARED TO CUT ACROSS MAJOR NATIONAL SHORT-TERM AND MID-TERM PLANS, WAS FOR NATIONS AT THE SUMMIT OR AT THE DPC MINISTERIAL TO AGREE THAT TRADEOFFS, SLIPPING INTO THE LONG-TERM, ETC., BE EARNESTLY AND ACTIVELY CONSIDERED, WITH DEADLINES SET FOR FOLLOW-ON REPORTS AND, POSSIBLY, DECISIONS.

5. VON SANDRART EXPRESSED CONCERN THAT SOME LESS-THAN-MAJOR TASK FORCE RECOMMENDATIONS, WHICH SEEMED TO BE HEADING FOR EN BLOC APPROVAL BY THE EWG OR PERMREPS, MIGHT TURN OUT TO BE "SLEEPERS" WITH SIGNIFICANT FINANCIAL CONSEQUENCES. HE THEREFORE WARNED AGAINST PUSHING TOO HARD FOR EN BLOC APPROVAL OF SUCH MEASURES LEST SOME NATIONS (PRESUMABLY INCLUDING THE FRG) MIGHT FEEL THEY HAD TO SAY

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NO TO THE WHOLE LOT. DEFAD EXPRESSED SURPRISE AT THIS VIEW, SAYING (A) THAT SURELY THERE COULD NOT BE MANY, IF ANY, SUCH COSTLY MEASURES IN THE LESSER CATEGORY, AND (B) THAT, EVEN IF THERE WERE, IT OUGHT TO BE POSSIBLE TO SEPARATE THEM OUT SATISFACTORILY AND IN TIME TO AVOID ANY UNNECESSARY SQUABBLING OVER THIS LESSER-ORDER MATTER.

6. DEFAD CONCLUDED BY EXPRESSING HIS CONFIDENCE THAT THE FRG WOULD CONTINUE TO REACT POSITIVELY DURING THE WEEKS AND SESSIONS AHEAD. ALL OTHERS WOULD BE CUEING ON THE FRG AND THE US, HE SAID, AND NEITHER SHOULD SET ANY NEGATIVE EXAMPLES THE OTHERS COULD EXPLOIT IN A MINIMALIZING WAY. VON SANDRART AGREED. BENNETT

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